

Application Serial No. 10/786,041
Reply to Office Action mailed December 19, 2009

Remarks

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed December 19, 2008. Claims 37 and 45 are amended to incorporate subject matter from claim 1 which is identified as being allowable. Claims 1-5, 11, 37, 38, 41, 44-47, 49, 50 and 52 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance are requested for the following reasons.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

On pages 3-7 of the Action, claims 37, 38, 41, 44-47, 49, 50 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,554,980 (Hashimoto et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 37 and 45 are amended to incorporate subject matter from claim 1 which is identified as being allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 37 and 45, as well as claims 38, 41 and 45 that depend from claim 37 and claims 46, 47, 49, 50 and 52 that depend from claim 45, are therefore requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

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Additionally, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees as set forth in §§ 38 CFR 1.16 to 1.18 which may be required for entry of these papers or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: March 19, 2009

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